

Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.



LANCASTER CITY, PA.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1868.

The "Pit Schwefelbrenner" Letters, in pamphlet form, are now finished and ready for delivery.

"POOR PEOPLE."

The Reading Eagle is constantly harping about "poor people"—for political effect, of course—and claims to be their special champion and friend.

Now, we contend, that to classify the workmen, the plow-holders and the taxpayers among the poor, is simply a slander.

It is true, there are also really poor people among those who work, but these are only the exceptions to the general rule—poor on account of family affliction, disease, and in too many cases on account of extravagance, pride, fashion, intemperance, and other usages of a demoralized state of society.

The only class of men who are justly entitled to newspaper notoriety as the "poor" are those who are poor—the young men who are too proud to work or learn useful trades—those who expend their all in extravagance of dress, and have not the wherewithal to buy bread; the man whose family suffers because he is not a "workingman," but an idler about drinking houses and gaming tables; the individual who, rather than be known as a "workingman" or a "plow-holder," waits, and keeps on waiting, for something to turn up, until he becomes seedy, out at the elbows, and generally demoralized.

THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

The suffrage question is evidently destined to play an important part in the deliberations of this session of Congress, for no less than four joint resolutions have been offered for amendments to the Constitution, all being in substantially similar language, and declaring that "no State shall deny or exclude from the exercise of any of the rights and privileges of an elector, any citizen of the United States by reason of race or color."

FUNERAL SOLEMNITIES IN CONGRESS.

The death of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens was announced in the House of Representatives yesterday, by Hon. O. J. Dickey. Addresses were also delivered on the occasion by Messrs. Broomall, Kelley, Getz, (Dem.,) Moorhead, Dawes, and others.

The death of Hon. Darwin A. Finney, of Crawford county, was also announced by his successor, Mr. Pettis, and speeches were made by several of his late colleagues in Congress and the State Legislature.

OUR CONGRESSMAN.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune has the following notice of our representative in Congress—Hon. O. J. Dickey:

"Mr. Stevens' successor has been generally inquired after, and has thus far been perhaps the man most noticed in the House. Distinguished men have a way of being succeeded by very small ones, but the new representative of Lancaster has made a favorable impression, where a favorable impression was hard to make. He is a thin, nervous-looking man, with hair and beard that show him to be no longer young, and a very intelligent face."

LEGISLATIVE EXTRAVAGANCE.

Our last week's proposition to contract for the "Pasting and Folding" for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, during the coming session, has provoked considerable comment. Our neighbor of the Daily Express goes in for stopping the cask in the manner proposed, and unconditionally endorses us as in every respect able to do and perform whatever we may undertake.

Now, inasmuch as we first resolved to call attention to this big leak of thirty thousand dollars, without the remotest idea of becoming personally interested in any contract or otherwise, and as we merely made the proposition for the purpose of showing up the enormity of the extravagance referred to, which we could not do more emphatically and clearly than by offering to do the same work for five thousand dollars, which cost the State nearly or quite forty thousand last session, we now say that we do not care much, personally, whether the proposition be accepted or not, provided some other equally radical reformatory measure be carried out.

Whilst on this subject, we beg our Republican members of the Legislature to bear in mind that the great national political questions which agitated the people for a number of years—questions of the greatest importance—are now settled, as we hope and believe, for all time. The people now feel free to consider other questions, and those of public extravagance must, in the nature of things, come up for consideration and thorough ventilation.

OLD JOHN BROWN.

The Hartford Post, on the anniversary of the death of John Brown, spoke kindly of the good old man, whereupon The Times, the Democratic organ, flew into a towering passion. The Post of December 4 says:

"Two things enrage our neighbor of the Times. Say to it that John Brown was not an assassin, or that N. B. Forrest was, or is, and you have our neighbor in a towering rage as one cares to look on. We did not mean to harass the Times the other day when we laid our poor tribute to his memory on the old man's grave. We did not, indeed we did not, know or suspect that this old Tyranny, that nine years ago ruled the land—but that now, thank God, is four years dead and buried—had provided in its will for a guard upon the sepulchre of Old John Brown, that no lover of Liberty and Right might lay a rose or lily on his grave."

IMPEACHMENT FRAUDS.

Copperhead Villainy to be Exposed!

The Union League of New York, after having devoted a month to investigation, have ascertained that from twenty to fifty thousand naturalizations have been issued by the Supreme Court of that State for the last election. They have determined to unearth the scoundrelism of the Copperhead Judiciary of that sink of corruption and venality, and ascertain how many of the naturalizations were frauds.

I. That, as comparative statistics abundantly demonstrate, there was a fraudulent vote of about twenty-five thousand in this city alone.

II. That the frauds began in enormous illegal naturalizations, under the sanction of the local Courts.

III. That they were swelled by the wholesale peddling of fraudulent naturalization papers to all that wanted them—only providing they were known to belong to a certain party.

IV. That fraudulent registrations were next secured—so shamelessly flagrant in their character that for a single house in Bayard street thirty voters were registered where absolutely only one resided; for several on Baxter street, thirty to forty were registered where only fifteen resided; and for five named houses in the Bowery, thirty-two were registered where only ten resided.

V. That repeating voters were abundant on election day, and that violence at the polls was employed to prevent challenges.

VI. That these frauds were conducted by Democratic managers, aided by Democratic Judges, encouraged by the proclamation of the Democratic Mayor, who was himself to be helped thereby to the Governorship, and skillfully calculated upon by the Democratic State Committee as a certain means for furnishing whatever number of votes might be found necessary to overcome the Republican majorities in the interior.

We are pleased to be able to state that the House of Representatives has created a committee of investigation, of which Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, is Chairman, and O. J. Dickey, our member of Congress, is a member, and there is no doubt but that a rigid investigation will be had. We hope it will be searching and impartial. Let the purity of the ballot-box be maintained, or our institutions are not worth the snap of a finger.

Of course, the copperheads of the House opposed the investigation, for who ever knew the men of that party to favor the exposure of election frauds.

ALARMING!

On Sunday last there were confirmed, at the Catholic Church in this city, upwards of two hundred persons, and the terrible part of the thing is that among the number were several colored persons, who received the sacrament! What is the world coming to? Where are your thunders, Mr. Intelligence? Pitch into them! This kind of thing will never do. What—colored individuals confirmed at the same time with whites, and in the Democratic city of Lancaster, too! Is it possible that white and black—Irishman and "nigger"—approach the Lord's Table together, and go to heaven together, too! P-e-r-s-o-n-s-t-o-o-u-s! To be sure, the same Almighty Father created both races—the same Heaven will receive both, of their lives are approved by Him, but then it is not Democratic! We expect to see the Intelligence and its worthy partisans of sour-kraut-hill, pitching into this thing, and then, oh, Moses, how the fur will fly from Rome.

The Catholic Church, to its immortal honor, be it said, have never recognized the distinction of race and color in its ordinances. White and black alike, approach the sacraments of the Church together, and are on a perfect equality, so far as their religion is concerned. But in their intercourse with the world, it is very different. The great mass of the members of that Church are the loudest denouncers and most cordial haters of the NAYGUR, and are the most strenuous opponents of their right to be equal before the law with all men. How they reconcile the two things we would like to have explained.

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Gov. Geary has issued his proclamation announcing to the people of Pennsylvania the gratifying fact that the State debt has been reduced the above amount during the year 1868. We question whether there is a State in the Union that can boast of so successful a management of its finances. Notwithstanding the immense expenses of the war, and the large appropriations made to soldiers' orphan schools, and the Common Schools, the debt of the State has been yearly gradually reduced by the judicious management of the two Republican Administrations of Govs. Curtin and Geary. The people will say, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

(Commentated.)

MR. FATHER ABRAHAM:—The Lancaster Express asserts that you or somebody else intend proposing to the Legislature, to do all the pasting and folding of the House for \$5,000 a session. I hope this may be true, and that you may get the job. It is evident there is corruption in this matter, for it is not reasonable that such a business should occasion the expenditure of so much as \$40,000, as the Express says it does. Our members are somewhat too liberal with the public money, and are too fond of making places for friends, whether there is any vacant places or not. Can there not be a stop put to this? LANCASTER.

THE "SEVEN SENATORS."

The result of the consultation of the committee of the Senate to revise the membership of the standing committee of that body, does not seem to have culminated in the independent action which was expected, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. It was proclaimed that there would be a general revision of the committee, and that the recalcitrant Republicans, who went over to Andrew Johnson at the time of the impeachment, should be punished by being deposed from the high places which they held. But such does not seem to be the case. No moral result is to be attributed to the action of the Committee on Committees, and the unfaithful Senators yet hold up their heads proudly and defy the censure which they deserve. Grimes, who left the Senate never to return, it was said, seems to have recovered his health, and is still Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs; Trumbull is Chairman of the Judiciary; Henderson, of the Committee on Indian Affairs; Van Winkle, of Pensions; Fessenden, of Public Buildings and Grounds; Fowler, on Engrossed Bills; Ross, on Enrolled Bills. Under the circumstances, we may express some doubt whether the seven have not made well out of their defection. They have been paid by Andrew Johnson in the appointment of their friends to office. They retain all positions of honor, which, it might be supposed, they had forfeited. They have gained, while the country has lost. What can be the reason of this? Have the seven Senators done anything to atone for their offense, or is the Senate ruled by fear or expediency?

OUR BIG CONTRACT.

Our proposition to contract for the work of Pasting and Folding for the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, during the coming session, is so very reasonable as to lead to the general opinion that we will not fail to secure it. Considering this a foregone conclusion, we have already received a number of applications for work in the Paster's and Folder's department. One of these applicants, a very worthy man, called on us personally and offered himself as a candidate for work. Another writes that "as there is no getting over the offer we made, he being out of employment, hopes to be remembered when we come to employ the folders." And yet another writes, "I am a farmer's son, a friend of economy, and consider myself a Jack of all trades, and therefore, I think I am the kind of a man you will need. I propose to work for you, if you get that contract, as you no doubt will, for fair wages—to be paid only what I shall honestly earn, and no more. I am not after a fortune, but want a little change from the rural to a city job, near a warm stove. Give me a chance." Should we get the contract we will want just such men, not to draw money without earning it, but to work and make honest and fair wages. But, then, we mightn't get the contract.

STATE NEWS.

YORK COUNTY.—David Maish has been chosen Steward of the Poor House. John Yeaple, of York, was severely injured by an accident on the Northern Central Railroad. Professional burglars are on a visit to York. On last Friday night the stables of Charles Creamer and George A. Heckert, in York, were destroyed by fire, and two horses perished. David E. Fry, aged 13 years, fell eighteen feet from a hay-loft, at York, without hurting himself. The clothing store of Widow Hess, in York, was entered by thieves one night last week and a number of articles stolen. The United Brethren congregation of York, under pastoral charge of Rev. Mr. Smith, propose to erect a new house of worship, on the site of their old building, corner of Newberry and West Philadelphia streets. In York, prices are as follows: Potatoes \$1.00 @ 1.25; eggs 30c @ 35c; butter, 30c @ 40c; chickens 40c @ \$1.00 per pair; beef from wagons, 7 @ 15c per pound; pork, from wagons, 88c @ 12 per 100.

DAUPHIN COUNTY.—On last Sunday morning, two little daughters of Mr. Isaac Hutchinson, of Harrisburg, proceeded to the cellar to get a bucket full of coal, when one of them, carrying a glass lamp, fell down stairs, breaking the lamp and setting her clothing on fire. Mr. Hutchinson promptly seized a piece of carpet and smothered the flames, and in doing so was himself severely burned. The little girl will probably recover. Mr. Charles Wollerton, of Harrisburg, while going home on Saturday evening last, slipped and fell on the sidewalk and broke one of his limbs near the ankle. Francis Ashford, whilst taking a whiskey nap on Sunday night on the Pennsylvania Railroad track, near the Lochiel Iron works, was run over by a train, and one of his legs cut off. The State Bank, a new institution, just commenced operations at Harrisburg, George Berger is President and H. A. Sturgeon Cashier. Joseph S. Martin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., took a room at the State Capitol Hotel on Friday last and was found next morning strangled to death, suspended from the door knob. His body was taken in charge by his son and son-in-law who came on from New York for that purpose. Jackson Shaeffer is the new Master elect of Perseverance Lodge, No. 21, A. Y. M. of Harrisburg. A colored man named Thomas Ayres was arrested at Harrisburg, on a charge of adultery. P. F. was instituted at Middletown, on Tuesday evening last, and the following Officers installed: C. P.—Moses G. Cryder; H. P.—Robert P. Long; S. W.—John H. Crown; J. W.—George M. Ziegler; Scribe—J. J. Rife; Treas.—Robert P. Long.

LEHIGH COUNTY.—Mr. Frank P. Laubach of Catawago, who is a director of a Silver Mining Company, has a block of solid silver weighing 213 pounds and worth over \$4,000. On Wednesday of last week a little daughter of Henry R. Moyer of Allentown, was burned to death by her clothes taking fire. The Allentown

Register says one of the boys has been given that an and on January 1st, all editors, school teachers and members of the gospel, will be required to show their certificates of office.

BUCKS COUNTY.—George Levens, of Doylestown, in consequence of an accidental gun shot wound received about two weeks ago, had his hand amputated. The people of Kulpville promise to raise \$40,000 towards the Stormy Creek Railroad. A bay horse and jockey wagon were stolen from the stable of James Arnold, at Fort Washington.

BEDFORD COUNTY.—Gleanings from the County Press: A huge bear was captured in the neighborhood of Buffalo Mills a few days ago. A storm of wind in the neighborhood of Bloody Run, on Monday night broke down limbs, weather boarding, &c. Butter only 35 cents at Bloody Run, and eggs 25.

ADAMS COUNTY.—From the Star: Geo. Alfred Townsend was announced to lecture in Gettysburg, last Tuesday evening, on "Pennsylvania Dutch." Where's Schwefelbrenner? Rev. Dr. Valentine, will be inaugurated President of Pennsylvania College on next Monday evening. Deer hunting successful in South Mountain. In Gettysburg, butter 40c; eggs, 25c; pork, \$8.00 per 100; lard, 18c; potatoes, 90c @ \$1.00.

CHESTER COUNTY.—A mad dog was shot at the residence of Mr. Isaac Hayes, East Bradford, on Wednesday last. The sub-contractors on the Wilmington and Brandywine Railroad, for eight or ten miles above Coatesville, have thrown up their contracts. John S. Williams, a colored man residing in East Cain, and formerly a servant under Stonewall Jackson, performed the remarkable feat of walking twenty-eight miles, over mountain and valley, in five hours, starting from 7th and Penn streets, city of Reading, on Wednesday the 2nd inst., and arriving at his home near Downingtown. On Monday night burglars entered the store of G. C. M. Eicholtz, at Downingtown, but were heard by a colored man who gave the alarm, when they left in a hurry. A meeting was held recently, at Chester Springs, to promote the construction of a Railroad along Pickering Creek, at a point near Phoenixville, to the Waynesburg Railroad.

CRAWFORD COUNTY.—There was more drunkenness on the streets of Meadville on Thanksgiving day than was ever before known. De Witt Buchanan, of Athens township, was killed by a tree falling on him whilst chopping wood. On Thursday of last week a child, named Webb, was drowned in the channel of French Creek, near Meadville, by breaking through the ice. John McMichael, of Greenwood township, had a leg broken by coming in contact with a locomotive whilst driving across a Railroad track the other day.

BERKS COUNTY.—Some time ago Mr. Charles B. Miller, keeper of a restaurant in Penn street above 6th, received a written notice, which he found under his door, to get his property insured, as he would be burned out. On Thursday night, last week his place was fired and considerably damaged—to the amount of \$500. M. cannot imagine how any one can be his enemy, as he has knowingly offended no one. The net proceeds of the Fair for the benefit of the Reading Library, amounted to about \$500. The County Teachers' Institute will be held at Keystone Hall, Reading, on Monday next at 10 o'clock A. M. The office of Sweeney and Burnhard, Reading, was entered by burglars last Thursday night and \$250 stolen. A new Camp of Junior Sons of America was instituted at Boyertown last week. Mr. Elam Ludwig, of Aunty township, refused \$1,700 for a colt sired by "Old Ironsides." Thieves entered the tobacco store of Samuel Warner, Penn street, Reading, on last Saturday night and helped themselves to a hundred dollars worth of the weed. The thieves have since been captured. The hardware store of McGowan & Millmore, was entered by burglars on Saturday night, but nothing is missing. Nasby will deliver a lecture this (Friday) evening, in Reading. Subject—"Cursed be Canaan." Horse race at New Storeville, next Tuesday, running 400 yards, between McLean's sorrel and Eshbach's horse, for \$100 a side. An unsuccessful attempt was made on Friday night to rob the lumber office of Vaughn & Bro., in Reading. A new M. E. Chapel is to be erected at 10th and Chestnut streets, Reading. The Reading Eagle says a full report of the Alexander trial will be published in Book form. Under a new arrangement work will be continued day and night in the Reading Railroad shops, by two gangs of workmen. Eleven shooting matches, two raffles, one fox chase and one wheelbarrow match are stated by the Eagle, to come off in various parts of the county during the holidays.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.—It is proposed to divide Lower Merion township. A large number of stragglers about Michael Flaney, a lad employed in the Conshohocken Silk Factory, was caught in the machinery and killed on Thursday of last week. The citizens of Norristown are moving in earnest for the construction of the Stony Creek Railroad—from a point on the North Pennsylvania Railroad at Lansdale or Gwynedd. A meeting was held at Norristown on Thursday of last week, with James Hoover, Esq., as President and Gen. John F. Hartman, as Secretary. Resolutions were adopted to push the work vigorously. Rev. J. H. Heck, pastor of the Lower Merion Lutheran Church, preached his farewell sermon on Sunday. He goes to central New York. Samuel C. Castile, aged 14 years, whilst out gunning in Lower Merion, accidentally shot himself in the head and died in a few hours. A butcher wagon, loaded and ready for market, belonging to J. Orem of Upper Dublin, with a horse, was stolen on last Friday night. Sleightful good in the Northern part of the County.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.—The little girls of Minersville, held a fair and realized \$10.87, which they gave to the Benevolent Association. The G. A. R. of Tremont will hold a fair, beginning on Christmas day. The G. A. R. of Mahony are holding a similar fair this week, all for the benefit of soldiers' and sailors' widows and orphans. Work on the Union Central Railroad has been suspended. Out of 5000 people in Tremont, only 500 are church goers. The St. John's Reformed and Lutheran Church of Friedensburg will be

consecrated on Saturday, the 26th inst. Frederick Sachson was precipitated down a shaft at B. Carter & Co's Colliery, in Tamaqua, one day last week, and instantly killed. Rev. D. Steek, the new Pastor of the English Lutheran Church of Pottsville, preached his introductory sermon last Sunday. The County Temperance Union held a meeting on the 3d inst. at Pottsville, and Benjamin Haywood was elected President for the ensuing year. The Union was ably addressed by Mr. Haywood, and Gen. Louis Wagner, of Philadelphia. A Grand Masquerade Carnival will be the great event among the young folks (all under 45 and upwards) at Ashland, Schuylkill county, on Christmas eve. The richest and most appropriate costumes are engaged in Philadelphia, and every effort is being made, regardless of cost or labor, to surpass everything of the kind ever gotten up in the State. "Pit" requests us to thank the Committee for the complimentary. If Bevvy's new bonnet be finished by that time, he says he'll try to be on hand, provided they don't miss the connexion.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.—A musical entertainment will be given in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Chambersburg on Christmas Eve. A fruit growers society is about to be organized at Chambersburg. Meeting next Tuesday evening at G. W. Reed's office. The Monumental Association will hold a fair at Chambersburg, commencing in the Repository Hall on Tuesday evening next, and continue during the week. Temperance Lecture in the County Court House next Tuesday evening by Mr. John Hunter.

CONGRESS.

SENATE: In the Senate on Thursday, the special committee to investigate the alleged impeachment corruptions, was continued, and a new standing one on Revision of Laws was created. The members of the various committees were then chosen. Mr. Sumner's Georgia bill and the Copper Tax bill were referred. A plea was made as to whether the bill transferring the Indian Bureau to the War Department should be referred to the Military or to the Indian Affairs Committee, and it was decided to refer it to the latter. Mr. Wilson, of Mass., introduced a Constitutional amendment to prevent distinction of civil or political rights on account of race in the white bill. Mr. Conness introduced a bill providing that Government employees shall receive as full wages as when ten hours constituted a day's labor. The credentials of Senator Hill, of Georgia, were referred. Mr. Edmunds moved that the reading of the President's message be continued until the 20th of the month where interrupted on Tuesday. After speeches in relation to the Message by Messrs. Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, the Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE: Bills were passed providing for the sale of the Government property at Harper's Ferry; fixing the salary of the Judge Advocate in the army; consolidating the different soldiers' asylums, and giving full pay to army officers detailed for military instruction in colleges. Bills were reported from the Military Committee equalizing the bounties, and establishing a national system of military education. The Senate bill was referred to the Committee on Finance. Mr. Washburn, of Ill., offered a resolution for a recess from December 21st to January 6th, which was agreed to. Mr. Broomall, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to regulate the value of legal-tender notes, and provide for their redemption, which was referred. The House then went into committee on the bill introduced by Mr. Blaine, of Maine. On resuming business, Mr. Coburn, of Indiana, introduced a bill relating to the tax on whisky. Mr. Ingersoll, of Illinois, introduced a bill supplementary to the Banking law, which proposes to allow unrestricted circulation, and also substitutes for the bill now held by the banks. Adjourned until Monday.

MONDAY, Dec. 14.—Senate: In the United States Senate on Monday, a memorial from the Union League of New York, in reference to election frauds, was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Morton, of Ind., introduced a bill providing for the redemption of United States notes, and requiring the National banks to redeem their notes in coin. Messrs. Williams and Ferry presented bills amendatory of the Naturalization laws. Mr. Stewart introduced a bill to punish the holding of office in violation of the Fourteenth amendment. Bills were introduced by Mr. Pomroy, creating a Department of Indian Affairs; by Mr. Conkling, repealing the act fixing the time for meetings of Congress; and by Mr. Wilson, reorganizing the Supreme Court. On motion of Mr. Henderson, the Secretary of the Interior was requested to communicate to the Senate, in reference to the Indian battle on the Washita, a report of a brief Executive session, Messrs. Castell and Willey offered resolutions censuring the financial portions of the President's message. The House resolution for a holiday recess was concurred in. Adjourned.

HOUSE: In the House a number of bills were introduced, and Messrs. Ashley, of Ohio, and Loughridge, of Iowa, presented each a Constitutional amendment. Mr. Garfield introduced a bill legalizing gold contracts, which was referred. Mr. Paine offered a bill permitting the raising of militia in certain Southern States. On motion of Mr. Arnell, of Tennessee, the Reconstruction Committee were directed to investigate "Ku-Klux" outrages. Mr. Stokes presented a bill granting twenty per cent. additional compensation to Government employees, which was laid on the table. Mr. Broomall, of Penna., offered a resolution in relation to the Secretary of the State, saying that it would be incompatible with the public interests to communicate the correspondence in relation to the Alabama claims. Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill "to enforce the United States laws in Georgia." Mr. Lynch's bill for the resumption of specie payments was made the special order for the 15th Wednesday in January. On motion of Mr. Wood, the Committee on Expenditures were directed to inquire into the alleged improper use of \$2,000,000 of the Alaska purchase money. On motion of Mr. Hunter, the Secretary of State was asked for information relative to the sending of a Commissioner to Spain. On motion of Mr. Lynch, the Foreign Committee were directed to consider what action should be taken regarding unjust discriminations against United States merchant vessels in Spanish West Indian ports. On motion of Mr. Sypher, of La., the Military Committee were directed to inquire into the expediency of allowing military organizations in the Southern States. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 15.—Senate: In the Senate on Tuesday, Mr. Sumner, from the Foreign Committee, reported two resolutions of sympathy with Spain. Mr. Willey's resolution censuring the President's propositions relative to the public debt, was reported from the Finance Committee by Mr. Castell, but its consideration was objected to by Mr. Mc-